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## 18th Century Periodicals

Eighteenth century saw the rise of journalism. Essays started appearing in the periodicals deriving materials from the manners of the time. Addison and Steele revolutionised the art of essay writing through the Tatler. It was started in 1709 by Steele. Addison contributed to it. It was after the eighty first number that he became a regular contributor. Tatler published news, essays, letters, stories and dramatic criticism.

January 02, 1711 saw the death of Tatler. A new periodical the Spectator followed in March the same year. One of the ingredients of this periodical was the essays which were a grand success in the Tatler. The success of this periodical must be attributed to the sobriety and moderation shown by the writers, humour and the general moralising tone. The essayists of the Spectator and

the writer's comments, attitudes, philosophies etc. but they lack the imaginative part which comes into play from the ~~author's~~ author's side. There is another way of writing about one's own life - writing in the form of a novel which suggests the presence of the writer because the life account given by another man tallies with the protagonist of the novel. Names are altered, places get a fictional name and the events described. The life story is not told directly but through the medium of a hero, there is a story element, the writer's imagination too comes into play, the form of the novel is maintained with a conscious plot construction. The account of life remains faithful with certain alterations told through the medium of fiction. We may call it fictionalised autobiography. They then take the name of autobiographical novels. There are autobiographical references

bold."

Chaucer is great not only by his historical position, but also because of his genius. He is one of the greatest poets of the world. In the Middle Ages, he had no superior save Dante, and if Dante is more sublime, Chaucer is at least more human. Indeed in this ~~the~~ thoroughly human quality of his best work, he yields to Shakespeare alone. That this estimate of Chaucer's rank is not exaggerated may be attested by the universal appreciation which he has received for five centuries and more. The fifteenth century was filled with his name. In the age of Elizabeth he had been praised and imitated by Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare and Fletcher. Milton lauded him and even in the age of neo-classicism, he was highly appreciated by Dryden and Pope. The nineteenth century

Pure autobiography may be boring and may not attract the common reader but like sketch presented through the medium of an interesting story attracts the majority. No one can leave David Copperfield unfinished nor can a man forget David, Miss Betsey, Trotwood Peggotty, the maid servant, William, the waiter etc. By writing autobiographical novels the authors serve three purposes -

- (i) they bring forward their qualities as a novelist
- (ii) they fulfil their desire to let their life known to the reading public and
- (iii) they immortalise the characters, good or bad, they have met in their life.

George Borrow - He is also taken to be an autobiographical novelist. According to Hudson he has produced two autobiographical novels entitled 'Legingro' and 'Romany Rye' but Legouis terms them as "snatches of

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the clubs and coffee-houses. Spectator became very popular and exerted great influence. It even got place in English literature. It has been said that "the Spectator made a mark in English literature, and fixed a form, which was adopted with servile fidelity by many periodicals till the end of the century." It is in the Tattler and the Spectator that we see the beginning of the "genial intimacy of the writer with the reader, which was to find so rare a following at a later time in Elia, in Hazlitt and in Thackeray." Goldsmith started a paper named 'The Bee' which ran only for few weeks. 'The Traveller' appeared in 1764. At this time he was on intimate terms with Johnson's inner circle. In 1760 he contributed ~~to~~ anonymously to Newbery's daily paper 'Public Ledger', a series of

paper purported to have been written by a Chinese visitor to London. It is said that after Addison it was Goldsmith who captured and revived the secret of the illustrious essayists of Queen Anne's time.

The end.

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